

RAF Football Association - E-Bulletin

RAF FA Cup Final, RAF Brize Norton vs RAF Coningsby, Marsh Lane Stadium, Oxford City FC, 15 May 19



It was a case of sweet revenge for RAF Brize Norton as they ran out 5-3 winners in the final of the RAF Cup to end their treble winning season.

In a repeat of last year's final, Brize Norton took on current holders RAF Coningsby at Oxford City FC's Marsh Lane Stadium where the fine weather and pitch made for a thrilling contest. Nerves seemed to get the better of both teams for the first twenty minutes with both sides struggling to keep possession of the ball and chances were restricted to long range efforts. Coningsby's Cpl Stephen Norton tested the Brize defence and goalkeeper early on after a great through ball set up a good chance and he forced a fine save himself after beating several defenders with a mazy run.



The deadlock was broken in the 29th minute when an excellent looping header from Brize Norton’s SAC Morrison left Coningsby’s goalkeeper with no chance.

Coningsby didn’t let the goal phase them and pushed for an equaliser straight away. They were rewarded in the 36th minute when the excellent Cpl Norton once again showed his skill and produced a cool finish to bring the scores level.

Just six minutes later though Brize Norton found themselves ahead once again with Cpl Mike Atkinson starting to stamp his authority on the game. A great bit of skill by the midfielder to cut inside the Coningsby defence left him with just the goalkeeper to beat, which he did with an emphatic finish just before half-time.

The start of second half saw Brize Norton look to add to their lead with SAC Izzard forcing a good save before clipping the crossbar in the 59th minute. Brize Norton’s goalkeeper SAC Carr nearly left himself red-faced after throwing the ball straight to Cpl Norton leaving the goal gaping, but his effort from 25 yards went well over.

Norton got his second goal five minutes later, when a good low cross saw an instinctive finish bring the scores level to 2-2.

Coningsby took the lead for the first time with just twelve minutes remaining when SAC Brason produced a good finish.



However, Brize Norton were straight back in the game when just a minute later Sgt Wanless brought the scores level again getting on the end of a great free kick.

Both teams frantically pushed for a winner, but the referees whistle meant the game would go into extra time.



Brize Norton came straight out of the blocks with Cpl Atkinson dominating the first period of extra time, despite going close with several efforts the scores remained 3-3 at half-time.

The second period saw Brize Norton continue to look the more likely to score a winner and they were rewarded for their pressure in the 20th minute. LAC Ager found himself through on goal and smashed the ball into the top corner to give his team a deserved lead.



Brize Norton sealed their win when Sgt Wanless coolly finished after more great work from Cpl Atkinson who went on to be named man of the match.

A spectacular win of the Keith Christie Trophy rounded off a treble winning season for Brize Norton with manager FS Jimmy O'Brien saying, *'For the neutral the game had everything, great goals, unbelievable saves at both ends, both sides coming back to take the lead and winning goals only coming in the second half of extra time. All the staff and players at Brize Norton are absolutely made up to finally bring home the biggest prize in RAF football after a long 29 year wait.'*



Mrs Pat Christie, wife of the late Keith Christie presented the 'Keith Christie Trophy' to the winners of the RAF Cup.

Match Report – Cpl Stu Jones – RAFFA Comms Team
Photographs – Mr Steve Lympany





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